

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 through 9 are pending. Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended as discussed during the August 13, 2004 telephone interview and are in a condition for allowance. Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (amended) An apparatus for assisting entry into high road clearance vehicles comprising:

a generally cylindrical side bar adapted ~~for attachment~~ for horizontal attachment to a vehicle wherein said bar is fixedly attached to a side of the vehicle ~~positioned~~ along a ~~the~~ longitudinal axis of the vehicle;

one or more smaller U-shaped cylindrical bars comprised of two end portions and a center portion , wherein said end portions are fixedly attached to said side bar; and

a generally flat surface on the top of each of said center portion ~~bar~~ of said U-shaped bars.
2. (original) An apparatus for assisting entry into high road clearance vehicles as claimed in claim 1 wherein said U-shaped bars are welded to said side bar.
3. (original) An apparatus for assisting entry into high road clearance vehicles as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a non-slip or non-skid material placed on the flat area on the top of the U-shaped bar.
4. (original) An apparatus for assisting entry into high road clearance vehicles as claimed in claim 1 wherein said U-shaped bars are attached at an angle approximately 45 degrees from the horizontal plane of said side bar.
5. (original) An apparatus for assisting entry into high road clearance vehicles as claimed in claim 1 wherein said side bar has a bent end portion.

6. (original) An apparatus for assisting entry into high road clearance vehicles as claimed in claim 1 wherein said U-shaped bars have end portions that connect to said side bar at an angle of approximately 0 to 45 degrees.

7. (original) An apparatus for assisting entry into high road clearance vehicles as claimed in claim 1 wherein said end portions of said U-shaped bar meet said center portion at an angle of approximately 0 to 45 degrees.

8. (amended) An apparatus for assisting entry into high road clearance vehicles comprising:

a generally cylindrical side bar adapted for horizontal attachment to a vehicle wherein said side bar is fixedly attached to a side of the vehicle ~~positioned~~ along ~~a~~ the longitudinal axis of the vehicle;

one or more U-shaped cylindrical bars comprised of two end portions and a center portion, wherein said end portions are attached to and suspended from said side bar; and

a non-skid surface on the top of each of said center portions ~~bars~~ of said U-shaped bars.

9. (amended) An apparatus to enable access into a vehicle comprising:

a generally cylindrical side bar adapted for horizontal attachment to a vehicle wherein said bar is fixedly attached to a side of the vehicle ~~positioned~~ along ~~a~~ the longitudinal axis of the vehicle;

a generally U-shaped bar comprised of two end portions and a center portion ~~bar~~, said end portions fixedly attached to said side bar, wherein said U-shaped bar is attached at an angle approximately 45 degrees from the horizontal plane ;and

a generally flat surface on the top of said center portion ~~bar~~ of said U-shaped bar.